

The Bloomfield Record.

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TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE.

Resume of Expenditures for the Past Year. Montclair Sewer Ordinance. The Town Publishing and Printing Awarded without Competition, and the Munyon Bill Railroaded through

The regular meeting of the Township Committee was held on Monday afternoon and was not called to order until after 4 P.M., owing to the absence of some of the members. The session was the most prolonged they have had, as they did not adjourn until 7 P.M.

Mr. Oakes, Chairman on Roads, reported that there had been spent on stone road construction \$18,296.53 the year, and there had been paid out \$405.65 due on last year's work. The appropriation for this year was \$18,000.

Appropriation for stone road repair, \$4000 Had received for dirt, 33

\$503

There had been expended for stone road repairs \$4,955.06.

Amount for dirt road repairs, \$3000.

There had been expended, 1831.49

Balance left unspent, \$168.51

There had been laid 34 miles of stone roads or 18,517 linear feet.

The new street which is known as an extension of Sycamore Street from Walnut Street to Williamson Avenue, ordered opened by Surveyors of Highways, was by request of Mr. Rayner referred to the Road Committee for examination and report.

Town Counsel Barrett reported that Mechanic Street had been regularly laid in 1872 and 73 by the Surveyors of Highways running parallel with the D. L. & W. R. R. from Glenwood Avenue to Washington Avenue on the west side of the D. L. & W. R. track. This matter was referred to the Road Committee to see parties interested and have the street opened if possible.

The Committee on Sidewalks, reported having laid 13,311 feet of new sidewalk and that 1,348 feet of old walks had been replaced for which had been expended 47,947.32.

In district No. 2 spent for grading, \$542.28

" " No. 3, " " 241.05

" " No. 4, " " 394.61

Mr. Stout, for the Water Committee recommended that a main be laid on Elmer Street if it could be done without putting in a hydrant; also the extension of Baldwin Street from Ridgewood Avenue to the railroad line and putting in one hydrant. The Committee had arranged to lay a main in Osborne Street up to Ridgewood Avenue, placing a hydrant at the corner of Bassinger Street and another at the corner of Forest Street; also for a main on Liberty Street between Walnut Street and Williamson Avenue.

The matter of readjusting the water pipes at Montgomery Street bridge was discussed and referred to the Water Committee.

The filing of maps and surveys was referred to the Town Counsel for his opinion as to what was necessary under the law. \$892.00 had been spent on maps and surveys this year. The appropriation on special maps was \$1850.00; expended \$1663.50.

Mr. Rayner called up the Washington Street sewer ordinance and it was put on its final passage. On his motion it was ordered published in the two local papers.

An ordinance prepared by the Town Counsel for the issuing of sewer bonds was read and laid over under the rules.

The contract for the sewer building between Orange and Bloomfield received the signature of the Chairman of the Township Committee.

The Treasurer was authorized to borrow on Township note \$13,228.90 to take up three notes now held by the Bloomfield National Bank; and \$26,209.16 for amount due Orange to January 31, 1893.

The Police Appropriation was \$1,000.00 Receipts from Hucker licenses 211.50

\$1,211.50

Amt. which had been expended \$1,030.11

A report was received from T. Howell Johnson, Chief of the Fire Department, making a detailed statement of the work performed during the year. He made several recommendations and stated that the amount required for fire purposes next year would be \$4,200.

Discussion was had as to the advisability of publishing the report in the Town annual. Exceptions were taken by Mr. Stout as to the correctness of some figures in the report, and finally the matter was referred back to the Fire Committee to get a condensed statement for publication.

Balance left over last year, and appropriation, \$3,885.99

Expend. 3,785.96

A report was received from Health Inspector Corby and referred to the Health Board.

A letter was received from Secretary of Citizen's meeting in relation to action of that body on Water and Light, embodying a resolution adopted at said meeting. After some remarks by Mr. Stout opposing town ownership and control of Water and Light, a motion prevailed to receive the communication and place it on file.

Mr. Rayner presented a communication from the New Jersey Traction Company asking permission to lay an additional track on Bloomfield Avenue from Newark line to present terminus at Liberty Street and a double track road from thence to Montclair line.

Communication from Mr. Jos. Oakes and other property owners was read, protesting against the tracks being placed on the sides of the road. The protest was placed on file, and the application of the Railroad Company referred to Town Counsel to ascertain the rights the township had (if any) under the existing laws.

Mr. Lockwood moved that the Town Clerk be instructed to give the annual

report to the publisher of the Citizen to print at the same price as was paid last year to publisher of THE RECORD, and pro rata for any excess should it be more voluminous than the previous report.

Mr. Beach was very much in favor of the resolution and said there was a certain amount fixed by law to be paid for such printing and thought it a "very small thing to say to the printer, you must compete and put your prices so low that you can't live upon them or you don't get the job," and continuing said the township was not an object of benevolence and should pay fair prices for what it had done.

Mr. Oakes expressed himself as in favor of the resolution and said he liked the Lockwood proposition.

Mr. Gilbert amended the motion that fairness to the two papers the Town Clerk be instructed to get estimates from each.

Mr. Rayner said as Chairman of the Committee on Fire, Sewer, etc., that he had been put to considerable trouble to obtain estimates on small matters of supply, but now comes a voluminous document, much more so than any we have had and a resolution is introduced doing away with competition. It was his opinion that estimates should be obtained and the printing given to the lowest bidder. The amendment was lost, Gilbert, Rayner and Hummel voting for it and the following against it: Lockwood, Stout, Oakes and Beach.

The original motion then prevailed by the same four voting in the affirmative. The disbursing of the people's money was then entered upon and this passed: among them was the bill of Ex-Chancellor Runyon for \$500, being for an opinion rendered upon the Sewer Contract with Orange.

Mr. Rayner said he was sorry that the bill had been presented, as there was a personal matter involved in it, the Treasurer at a previous meeting having stated that he would pay the bill if the town did not. Poor as he (Rayner) was he would rather pay his share of it than have it brought before the Township.

The presiding officer at the commencement of his term of office had laid down a line of action that no obligations should be incurred outside of the regular meetings of the Committee and some of the members had tried to live up to it. This was a large expenditure of money and may have been necessary, but had never come before the Township Committee as a whole, never brought to his attention, although he was Chairman of the Sewer Committee. There was no authorization of the bill by the Committee and he could not vote for it. He said that the people were opposed to the payment of the bill. He also said that there was ample time to have had a meeting of the Committee, Montclair's position was even worse than ours. The consent of this Committee was not obtained to the incurring of the expense, and with him it was a matter of conscience and he should vote against it.

Mr. Lockwood said he also had talked with the people but they did not talk the same as those with whom Mr. Rayner had been in communication. He said they had to get the opinion of some one widely known to remove the blemish that had come upon our financial standing.

Mr. Gilbert said that the bill was a good natured crowd, as it was long past the hour named for the convention when it was called to order, as they had been waiting for the Chairman of a delegation to arrive. The Hall was well filled with spectators who were interested in the result. H. L. Potter of East Orange called the convention to order. A. J. Lockwood (who really is a novice in politics) of Bloomfield was elected Chairman and J. Wesley Van Giesen of Caldwell, Secretary. A committee of one from each township and borough was appointed a committee on rules. The committee reported through A. C. Studer the following code of rules, viz.:

First, roll call for nominations; second, an informal ballot; third, formal ballot; fourth, majority of all votes cast shall elect; fifth, town of vote to be named by its chairman; sixth, Committee of one to be appointed to fill vacancy should any occur by death or otherwise. Rules adopted. H. M. Barrett, the silver tongued counselor of Bloomfield, nominated Thos. McGowan in a few well chosen words. Joe Hatt of East Orange had the task of making two nominations for his delegation, Jas. Peck and Thos. McGowan. Livingston nominated Richard Spier of Caldwell—the delegate who nominated him evidently from his remarks preferred going to Caldwell, although it contained the penitentiary, rather than to Trenton with its last legislature.

John H. Wilson of Montclair had two candidates to present J. Wesley Van Giesen for the majority and Thos. McGowan for the minority. On an informal ballot McGowan had 4, Bloomfield 3, East Orange 6, Livingston 2, Milburn 3, Verona 1, Montclair 4; total 33. Peck had East Orange 15; Jacob Kistered, Franklin 4; Richard Spier, Livingston 2; J. Wesley Van Giesen, Montclair 7.

Before the Secretary could announce the result of the vote East Orange changed her vote to which the vote of Montclair was referred back to the Fire Committee to get a condensed statement for publication.

Mr. Oakes recognized the irregularity of the transaction and yet the result was for it. This cloud came up suddenly and required very prompt action. The opinion was valuable, as the Chairman of the Sewer Committee recognized it and based his actions upon it.

Mr. Rayner could not see the pressing necessity, as the bank had our notes necessary, as the bank had our notes necessary, and the bank had the money.

Mr. Oakes said that what pressed was the amount due to Orange.

Mr. Rayner said it rested with the bank which had loaned the money and taken the risk not with the man who negotiated the paper, to find out its value.

The bill was then passed by the following vote: Affirmative, Lockwood, Stout, Oakes and Beach. Negative, Rayner, Gilbert, Hummel.

After the bill had been passed, Mr. Beach said that the remarks of Mr. Rayner had opened up to him the reason why some people had been opposed to the payment of the bill, and that was because they had supposed it was a bank matter, done at the expense of the town. A man came to him who had heard that it had been done for the bank at the expense of the town; as soon as he (Beach) had explained the transaction, he went away perfectly satisfied. A high opinion was necessary to carry weight. The previous Committee had not done its duty. He said if any one supposed a bank would have continued to loan money on such

security. Money was due Orange and there was a penalty attached for delay in payments. The Treasurer had refused to do what was not honorable. He wished it to be distinctly understood that the opinion was obtained for the benefit of the town, and that it was all wrong to think that it was for the benefit of the bank.

Mr. Rayner made the point that there was no such need for haste as there was ample time to call the Committee together if it had been desired.

Mr. Beach said that it took time to write such an opinion and they did not want their action to be made public.

Mr. Rayner asked if the Chairman considered the matter of such importance as to set aside his own rule? That no bill incurred without the sanction of the whole Committee.

Mr. Beach said he was governed in making that rule by what was done in the last Town Committee in avoiding responsibility. Everything was done in the Sub-Committee and they had to stand the brunt; he did not propose to have any shirking at this time, and that was why the rule was made.

Mr. Rayner said as Chairman of the Committee on Fire, Sewer, etc., that he had been put to considerable trouble to obtain estimates on small matters of supply, but now comes a voluminous document, much more so than any we have had and a resolution is introduced doing away with competition. It was his opinion that estimates should be obtained and the printing given to the lowest bidder. The amendment was lost, Gilbert, Rayner and Hummel voting for it and the following against it: Lockwood, Stout, Oakes and Beach.

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The presiding officer at the commencement of his term of office had laid down a line of action that no obligations should be incurred outside of the regular meetings of the Committee and some of the members had tried to live up to it. This was a large expenditure of money and may have been necessary, but had never come before the Township Committee as a whole, never brought to his attention, although he was Chairman of the Sewer Committee. There was no authorization of the bill by the Committee and he could not vote for it. He said that the people were opposed to the payment of the bill. He also said that there was ample time to have had a meeting of the Committee, Montclair's position was even worse than ours. The consent of this Committee was not obtained to the incurring of the expense, and with him it was a matter of conscience and he should vote against it.

Mr. Lockwood said he also had talked with the people but they did not talk the same as those with whom Mr. Rayner had been in communication. He said they had to get the opinion of some one widely known to remove the blemish that had come upon our financial standing.

Mr. Gilbert said that the bill was a good natured crowd, as it was long past the hour named for the convention when it was called to order, as they had been waiting for the Chairman of a delegation to arrive. The Hall was well filled with spectators who were interested in the result. H. L. Potter of East Orange called the convention to order. A. J. Lockwood (who really is a novice in politics) of Bloomfield was elected Chairman and J. Wesley Van Giesen, Montclair 7.

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